

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 110723
ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-05 ACDA-12 SP-02
CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10 SIG-03 MMO-01
H-01 INR-10 L-03 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 TRSE-00
/123 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:RLBARRY:EK/SL
APPROVED BY P:DNEWSOM
IO:GBHELMAN
PM:LGELB
ACDA/D/SSOD:CFLOWERREE
EUR:JGOODBY
S/P:PKREISBERG
S/MS:MSHULMAN (DRAFT)
NSC:BPUTNAM
DOD:WSLOCOMBE

-----125798 012204Z /65

O 012131Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 110723

USNATO FOR C. FLOWERREE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NNUC, UNGA

SUBJECT: THE "NEUTRON BOMB" ISSUE AT THE UN SPECIAL SESSION
ON DISARMAMENT

REF: A) STATE 102565; B) TRIPOLI 589

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 110723

1. SOVIET AND EAST EUROPEAN MEDIA ARE CONTINUING THEIR
CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE NEUTRON BOMB IN THE WAKE OF OUR
ANNOUNCEMENT THAT DECISION ON PRODUCTION AND DEPLOYMENT
HAD BEEN DEFERRED. SOVIET AND EAST EUROPEAN DIPLOMATS
WORLDWIDE ARE PURSUING THIS ISSUE WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS.
A KEY ELEMENT OF THIS CAMPAIGN IS AN EFFORT TO BUILD
MOMENTUM FOR ACTION AT THE UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMA-

MENT (MAY-23-JUNE 28), "BANNING" THE NEUTRON BOMB OR ENDORSING THE SOVIET CALL FOR US-USSR RENUNCIATION OF THE WEAPON. THE SOVIETS AND EE'S APPEAR TO HAVE DIVIDED UP THE LOBBYING TASK WORLDWIDE. THE CZECH AMBASSADOR RECENTLY MADE A PRESENTATION IN THE DEPARTMENT ON THE SSOD CALLING INTER ALIA FOR A BAN ON THE NEUTRON BOMB (REF A). WE GATHER FROM REF B THAT HUNGARY IS OUT IN FRONT ON THIS ISSUE IN TRIPOLI. THE SOVIETS THEMSELVES ARE URGING PROMINENT FIGURES TO MAKE STATEMENTS URGING THE SSOD PRONOUNCE ITSELF IN FAVOR OF AN ERW BAN. FINALLY, BREZHNEV, IN AN APRIL 25 SPEECH IN MOSCOW, OFFERED AN

EQUIVALENT SOVIET PLEDGE OF NON-PRODUCTION OF ERW, CHARACTERIZING THE U.S. ERW DECISION AS A "HALF MEASURE" WHICH THE USSR HAD NONETHELESS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

2. WE BELIEVE IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT OUR VIEW ON THIS SUBJECT BE MADE KNOWN TO HOST GOVERNMENTS. WE DO NOT WANT TO MOUNT A COUNTER CAMPAIGN OF LOBBYING, BUT AS THE OCCASION ARISES, POSTS SHOULD DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING IN ANY DISCUSSION OF THE NEUTRON BOMB ISSUE AND ITS HANDLING IN THE SSOD. POSTS SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR THAT OUR GOAL IS TO AVOID HAVING SSOD TURN INTO A STERILE PROPAGANDA EXERCISE, NOT TO SIGNAL THAT US HAS MADE A DECISION ON ERW PRODUCTION.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 110723

-- OUR DECISION TO DEFER PRODUCTION OF THE ENHANCED RADIATION/REDUCED BLAST WEAPON WAS TAKEN IN SPITE OF AND NOT BECAUSE OF THE PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN MOUNTED BY THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS WARSAW PACT ALLIES.

-- AT THE SAME TIME, THE SOVIET UNION IS CONTINUING TO DEVELOP NEW NUCLEAR WEAPONS DELIVERY SYSTEMS WHICH REPRESENT SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN THE DESTRUCTIVE CAPABILITIES TARGETTED BY THE SOVIET UNION ON WESTERN EUROPE GOING BEYOND REASONABLE DEFENSIVE REQUIREMENTS.

-- WE BELIEVE THAT THE SOVIET UNION SHOULD RESPOND TO THE RESTRAINT WE HAVE DISPLAYED IN TERMS THAT RELATE TO THE TRUE MILITARY SITUATION IN EUROPE. NON-PRODUCTION OF A SOVIET ER WEAPON IS NOT ADEQUATE RESTRAINT IN VIEW OF THE LOW VALUE OF THE ERW FOR THE SOVIET UNION, I.E., IT IS A DEFENSIVE WEAPON FOR USE AGAINST A TANK ASSULT.

-- OUR PRODUCTION DECISION ON THE ERW WILL BE INFLUENCED BY THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE SOVIET UNION SHOWS RESTRAINT IN ITS CONVENTIONAL AND NUCLEAR ARMS PROGRAMS AND FORCE DEPLOYMENT AFFECTING THE SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES

AND WESTERN EUROPE.

-- IN DISCUSSING BREZHNEV'S MUTUAL RENUNCIATION OFFER DURING HIS APRIL 25 PRESS CONFERENCE, PRESIDENT CARTER TURNED ASIDE SOVIET PRESIDENT LEONID BREZHNEV'S PUBLIC PROPOSAL THAT THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION SETTLE THE NEUTRON BOMB QUESTION BY AGREEING THAT NEITHER WILL PRODUCE THE ENHANCED RADIATION WEAPON. "THE SOVIETS HAVE

NO USE FOR THE NEUTRON WEAPON" BECAUSE IT IS DESIGNED TO COUNTERACT THEIR OWN SUPERIORITY IN TANK FORCES, CARTER SAID, "AND SO THE SOVIET OFFER BY BREZHNEV TO REFRAIN FROM BUILDING THEM HAS NO SIGNIFICANCE...AND HE KNOWS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 110723

THIS."

-- WE BELIEVE THAT A DECISION BY THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS EAST EUROPEAN ALLIES TO CARRY THE NEUTRON BOMB CAMPAIGN INTO THE SSOD WOULD HAVE NEGATIVE EFFECTS FOR THE SESSION.

-- WE WANT TO SEE THE SSOD EXPAND ON EXISTING AREAS OF AGREEMENT IN THE DISARMAMENT FIELD RATHER THAN PRIMARILY TO HIGHLIGHT AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT. THE WIDE PUBLIC SUPPORT IN THIS COUNTRY FOR SSOD RESTS ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT RHETORICAL ATTACKS WILL NOT BE THE MAJOR ELEMENT IN THE SESSION.

-- US HOPES THAT SSOD ITSELF WILL MAKE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO PROGRESS IN ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT. WE BELIEVE THAT OTHERS WHO SHARE THIS INTEREST SHOULD USE THEIR INFLUENCE TO DETER AND RESIST ATTEMPTS TO DISTORT THE PURPOSES OF THE SESSION BY USING IT AS A VEHICLE FOR PROPAGANDA ATTACKS.

CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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